

c. *capite plumbeo, dorso concolori*.

7. L. SEMIPLUMBEA. EX Isthm. Panama et Costa Rica.

B. corpore subtus albo, plumbeo transfasciato.

8. L. PRINCEPS. EX Costa Rica.

C. corpore subtus plumbeo unicolori.

9. L. SCHISTACEA*. EX Amaz. et Columbia.

10. L. PLUMBEA. EX rep. Æquatoriali.

XXX.—*Notes on some Birds from the Chatham Islands, collected by H. H. Travers, Esq.; with Descriptions of two new Species.* By Captain F. W. HUTTON, F.G.S.

MR. H. TRAVERS having lately returned, with considerable collections, from an eight months' visit to the Chatham Islands (a small group lying about 475 miles due east from New Zealand), I am enabled through his kindness to draw up the following list of the birds, which includes not only those species which he brought away, but also a few others of which he was not able to obtain specimens; so that it may be looked upon as complete, so far as our present knowledge extends.

1. CIRCUS ASSIMILIS, Jard.

Mr. Travers was unable to procure specimens of this bird; but he saw a dead one that had been killed too long for preserving. He informs me that it does not differ from New-Zealand examples.

2. PROSTHEMADERA NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ (Gm.).

Two specimens.

3. ANTHORNIS MELANOCEPHALA, Gray.

Several specimens, male, female, and young.

The female and young differ from those of *A. melanura* only in size; the latter correspond entirely with *A. auriocula*, Buller.

The eggs are usually of a darker pink than those of *A. mela-*

* *Asturina schistacea*, Sundev. Œfv. Af. K. Vet. Förh. 1849, p. 132; Schl. Mus. des. P. B. Asturinæ, p. 8; *Morphnus schistaceus*, Schl. P. Z. S. 1857, p. 261.; *Urubitinga schistacea*, Schl. P. Z. S. 1858, p. 128; Schl. & Salv. P. Z. S. 1866, p. 198; 1867, p. 979; Pelz. Orn. Bras. p. 2; *Falco ardesiacus*, Licht. in Mus. Berol. teste Bp.

nura, and are largely blotched on the thick end with chestnut. Length 1·05 inch; breadth 0·75.

4. *ZOSTEROPS LATERALIS* (Lath.).

Eggs only of this species are in the collection; but Mr. Travers informs me that the bird is common on all the islands.

5. *SPHENÆACUS RUFESCENS*, Buller.

Several specimens, two of which are variegated with white feathers, principally on the wings. It is found only on the Island of Mangare.

6. *GERYGONE ALBOFRONTATA*, Gray?

Above olivaceous brown; over the eye, region of the ears, and all the lower surface white, tinged with yellow on the flanks, abdomen, and vent. Quills brown, narrowly edged on the outer margin with olivaceous; secondaries the same, but with a broader edging. Tail brownish rufous, with a brownish-black band near the tip, followed on the three outer feathers with a band of pale rufous; tip brown. Iris light red. Length 4·5 inches; wing 2·25; bill from gape 0·65; tarsus 0·87.

Egg pinkish white, with numerous red spots and lines. Length 0·74 inch; breadth 0·54.

Hab. All the islands.

Two specimens, neither in good condition, were all that Mr. Travers brought. This bird differs from Gray's description of *albofrontata*, in the 'Voyage of the Erebus and Terror,' remarkably in size, and also in the colour of the tail; but I notice that although the total length and that of the wing are considerably more in Mr. Gray's bird than in mine, still the bill and the tarsus are smaller; and the coloration of the tail in the figure agrees with the Chatham-Island bird, although the description does not. Mr. Gray's bird is also said to have been brought from New Zealand by Dr. Dieffenbach; but as this species has never been found in New Zealand since, and as Dr. Dieffenbach visited the Chatham Islands, it is possible that the label may have got misplaced*.

7. *PETROICA DIEFFENBACHI*, Gray.

A single male specimen is in the collection. It answers

* [See letter from Mr. Potts. *postea*.—ED.]

exactly, both in size and colouring, to *P. macrocephala*, No. 28 of my 'Catalogue of the Birds of New Zealand' (Wellington, 1871); but as *P. dieffenbachi* was originally described from a Chatham-Island specimen, the names in my Catalogue will have to be changed, and No. 29, the smaller bird with the pale yellow breast, will be *P. macrocephala*.

8. *PETROICA TRAVERSI* *.

Entirely black, except the wings, which are brownish. Length 6 inches; wing 3·25; bill from gape 0·77; tarsus 1·13. Female similar to the male.

Several specimens, all from Mangare.

9. *ANTHUS NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ* (Gm.).

One specimen.

10. *RHIPIDURA FLABELLIFERA* (Gm.).

One specimen. Mr. Travers informs me that he could not hear of a black-tailed species of *Rhipidura* ever having been seen on the islands; it is therefore probable that Dr. Dieffenbach's specimen of *R. melanura*, Gray, was incorrectly labelled, and *R. melanura* will therefore be the same as *R. tristis*, Homb. et Jacq.

? 11. *STRINGOPS HABROPTILUS*, Gray.

Mr. Travers never saw a specimen of this bird; but from the descriptions of others he can hardly doubt but it once existed on these islands; at the same time he remarks that there is no country in the Chatham Islands at all similar to the haunts it loves to frequent in New Zealand.

12. *PLATYCERCUS NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ* (Sparrm.).

One specimen.

13. *PLATYCERCUS AURICEPS*, Kuhl.

Two specimens, both of which are larger than any that I have seen from New Zealand, measuring 11 inches in length, and 4·7 inches from the carpal joint to the tip of the wing. The bill and tarsi are of the same size as New-Zealand specimens.

* [This is the species called *Miro traversi* by Dr. Buller in his second part of the 'Birds of New Zealand,' p. 123 (published June 1872), the description being taken from the same specimens. (cf. Buller, l. c.—ED.)

14. *CHRYSOCOCCYX PLAGOSUS* (Lath.).

Three specimens, all exactly alike, and answering to the description of *C. plagosus* in Gould's 'Handbook to the Birds of Australia,' having a broad bill, and only a very faint trace of a single rufous bar on the second tail-feathers. The New Zealand Golden Cuckoo (*C. lucidus*) has the broad bill of *C. plagosus*, and the second tail-feathers with several well-marked bars of rufous; but none of the feathers has a rufous base. This form does not appear to have been noticed elsewhere as yet, although it is certainly migratory with us. It is very remarkable that *C. plagosus* should be found both in Australia and the Chatham Islands while it is absent from New Zealand, which lies between them. In the Chatham Islands this bird is also migratory.

Is it not possible that all the individuals of the species *C. lucidus* leave Australia to breed in New Zealand? so that this species does not spread in Australia; and the limited number which are sufficient to stock New Zealand would scarcely be noticed when spread over Australia. In this way *C. lucidus*, although inhabiting Australia, would be just as much isolated as if it remained altogether in New Zealand, and any variation would not be transmitted by interbreeding to Australian individuals.

15. *CARPOPHAGA NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ* (Gm.).

A single specimen and two eggs are in the collection. The eggs are white, or yellowish white, with minute purple spots on the larger end. Length 1.4–1.47 inch; breadth 1.1.

16. *CHARADRIUS BICINCTUS*, Jard.

Two specimens.

17. *THINORNIS NOVÆ-ZEALANDIÆ* (Gm.).

Several specimens. Found on Mangare only.

18. *HÆMATOPUS LONGIROSTRIS*, Vieill.

Two specimens.

19. *ARDEA POICILOPTERA*, Wagl.

Mr. Travers did not succeed in getting a specimen of this bird, although he knows that it exists on the islands.

20. *LIMOSA UROPYGIALIS*, Gould.

This bird was seen by Mr. Travers several times; but he did

not succeed in getting specimens. It is migratory, leaving the islands in the winter.

21. *GALLINAGO PUSILLA*, Buller.

Several specimens. On Mangare only.

22. *RALLUS MODESTUS*, sp. nov.

Olivaceous brown, bases of the feathers plumbeous; feathers of the breast slightly tipped with pale fulvous, those of the abdomen and flanks with two narrow bars of the same colour; throat dark grey, each feather slightly tipped with brown. Quills soft brown, the first three faintly barred with reddish fulvous, fourth and fifth the longest. Tail very soft and short, brown. Irides light brown; bill and legs light brown.

Young. Uniform brownish black.

Length 8·75 inches; wing 3·15; bill from gape 1·4; tarsus 1; middle toe and claw 1·4.

A single specimen and young from Mangare; also a specimen in spirits.

23. *RALLUS DIEFFENBACHI*, Gray.

This bird has never been seen since Dieffenbach's visit. It appears to be quite extinct now.

24. *ORTYGOMETRA AFFINIS*, Gray.

A single specimen and broken egg, which is of an olive-brown colour, and highly polished. Breadth ·77 inch.

25. *ORTYGOMETRA TABUENSIS* (Gm.).

One young specimen.

26. *PORPHYRIO MELANOTUS*, Temm.

One specimen.

27. *ANAS SUPERCILIOSA*, Gm.

One specimen.

28. *ANAS*?

Mr. Travers did not succeed in seeing again the Duck with red on the wings mentioned in his account of his first visit to the islands (Trans. New-Zealand Institute, i. p. 178).

29. *RYNCHASPIS VARIEGATA*, Gould.

Two males and two females.

30. *LESTRIS CATARRACTES*, L.

Several specimens. Sometimes the feathers of the back of the neck are finely streaked with pale yellow; but usually they are of a uniform brown.

Egg rather pyriform, olive-brown, with large brown and purplish grey spots. Length 3·1 inches; breadth 2·1.

31. *LARUS DOMINICANUS*, Licht.

Two specimens, adult and young.

32. *LARUS SCOPULINUS*, Forst.

Several specimens.

33. *STERNA FRONTALIS*, Gray.

One specimen. The breast is faintly tinged with rose.

34. *DIOMEDEA EXULANS*, L.

Common on the coast.

35. *DIOMEDEA MELANOPHRYS*, Boie.

Common on the coast.

36. *OSSIFRAGA GIGANTEA* (Gm.).

Several specimens, all of which are brown, getting lighter on the breast and throat, where the colour passes into dirty white.

37. *HALODROMA URINATRIX* (Gm.).

A few specimens. Length 8 inches; wing 4·5; tarsus 0·8; bill from gape 0·9, along culmen 0·55, breadth at end of nasal tube 0·25, height at end of nasal tube 0·2.

38. *HALODROMA BERARDI*, Quoy et Gaim.

A few specimens. Length 7·75 inches; wing 4·25; tarsus 0·8; bill from gape 0·9, along culmen 0·55, breadth at end of nasal tube 0·17, height at end of nasal tube 0·2. The narrow bill of this species easily distinguishes it from the last.

39. *PUFFINUS TRISTIS*, Forst.

Several specimens.

40. *PUFFINUS ASSIMILIS*, Gould?

No specimens, but common off the coast.

41. *PROCELLARIA CAPENSIS*, L.

Common on the coast.

42. *PRION TURTUR*, Soland.

Several specimens.

Egg white. Length 1·7 inch.; breadth 1·25.

43. *PRION VITTATUS*, Gml.

Several specimens. Length 12 inches; wing 8·25; tarsus 1·3; bill from gape 1·6; breadth 0·87.

Egg white: length 2 inches; breadth 1·5.

This is probably the very broad-billed variety mentioned by Mr. Gould at the end of his description of this bird in his 'Hand-book to the Birds of Australia;' but I hardly think that it is entitled to rank as a separate species.

44. *THALASSIDROMA MARINA* (Lath.).

Several specimens.

45. *THALASSIDROMA NEREIS*, Gould.

One specimen.

46. *GRACULUS CARBO*, L.

One specimen.

47. *GRACULUS CARUNCULATUS*, Gm.

A few specimens. As soon as the breeding-season is over, the back becomes brown, with a broad transverse white band.

48. *GRACULUS AFRICANUS*, Gm.

Head, neck, throat, lower part of back, thighs, vent, and over the tail dark blue or green-black; upper back and wing-coverts greenish bronzy-brown, each feather with a black apex; breast and abdomen grey: quills and tail brownish black; head crested and neck ornamented with white feathers in the breeding-season. Bill dark; legs and feet yellowish orange. Length 19 inches; wing 9·5; bill from gape 2·75; tarsus 2. Both sexes alike. This Cormorant is also found in New Zealand, but is very rare; for I have seen portions of the skin of a bird shot at the Wade, near Auckland, which I have now been able to identify with this species.

49. *EUDYPTES PACHYRHYNCHUS*, Gray.

One living specimen.

50. *EUDYPTILA MINOR* (Forst.).

Several specimens.

Mr. Travers finds from careful inquiry that there is no evidence of the following birds ever having inhabited the Chatham Islands, although they have been reported to have been seen there (Trans. New-Zealand Institute, i. 178)—*Ardea alba*, *Ocydromus*, sp., *Anas chlorotis*, and *Apteryx*, sp.

XXXI.—*A Revision of the Genus Henicurus.*

By H. J. ELWES, F.Z.S. &c.

(Plate IX.)

THOUGH the genus *Henicurus* does not present any grave difficulties to the ornithologist, yet, as the species composing it have been a good deal confused and from what we know of its geographical distribution it is not likely that any new ones remain to be discovered, I think the following notes may not be unacceptable.

Temminck first proposed the name *Henicurus* (errore *Enicurus*, ἐνικός et οὐπά) for three species of birds from Java and Sumatra—namely, *Turdus leschenaulti* (Vieill.), *H. ruficapillus*, and *H. velatus*—which he figured and described in the Planches Coloriées, vol. iii. livr. 27, 19, & 90. A few years later, when the riches of the Himalayas were first brought to light, four more species were described by Hodgson and Vigors.

Though the exertions of such indefatigable and skilful naturalists as Jerdon, Blyth, Swinhoe, and David have added hundreds of species to the avifauna of Asia, only two distinct *Henicuri* have, in my opinion, been since discovered.

The birds in question form a very well-marked group, of doubtful affinity; for though they are placed by most authors in the family *Motacillidæ*, and resemble the Wagtails greatly in habits and appearance, it is by no means certain that they are rightly so placed.

Blyth, a naturalist whose opinion on any point of classifi-